



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION
State Capitol, 700 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601



LRC Legislative Intern Program 2014

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION
Frankfort, Kentucky

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provides an opportunity for self-motivated, outgoing, and qualified college students to gain an understanding of the legislative process through active participation.



Photo by Rick McComb



House
Chamber



The 2012 Interns
outside of House
Chamber.

Students will spend four months working with Legislative Research Commission staff and members of the General Assembly. They will be trained and treated like actual employees of the LRC.

Students are placed in areas that best utilize their personal interests and/or qualifications. These areas include the legislative committee staff, the director's office, constituent services, and the public information office.

The interns will receive a \$1,000 monthly allowance (subject to all applicable taxes) and be responsible for their own housing, meals, and other expenses while in Frankfort.

In the past, the legislative intern program has not only aided in developing the talents of the interns, but has also helped give direction to their career goals.

The interns make new friends and often develop professional contacts during the four-month program.



2008 Interns enjoying lunch.



2012 LRC Intern Class.



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LRC Director's Office

The director of the Legislative Research Commission and his administrative staff coordinate and monitor all activities pertinent to the operation of the legislative session. An intern placed in this position will assist with various administrative tasks, including tracking the progress of bills and resolutions affecting the General Assembly or the LRC. Interns will also assist with research requests, delivery of bills and information to members on the House and Senate floor, and preparation of the Legislative Record. Interns assigned to the Director's Office should have excellent organizational skills and be able to work effectively under the pressure of deadlines.

Committee Staff Assignments

Interns assigned to a legislative committee will assist LRC professional staff in drafting and tracking bills, performing research tasks, and preparing for committee meetings. LRC committee staff give interns a great deal of responsibility and their work often results in legislation that will affect the entire state. In addition, while assisting LRC committee staff, interns have an excellent opportunity to understand issues confronting the General Assembly, policy making and the legislative process from experienced analysts, attorneys, and legislators. By developing working relationships with these professionals, interns become part of the committee staff and get a behind-the-scenes look into the General Assembly that few people have. Interns might be assigned to one of several

committees. These include Health and Welfare, Judiciary, Labor and Industry, and Education, to name a few. Therefore, students from all academic disciplines and interests can benefit from this internship program.

Constituent Services

The Constituent Services Office interacts with Legislators' constituents in their districts by phone and mail. The LRC Constituent Services staff assist legislators by working with their constituents who may have complaints, requests, or be experiencing problems communicating with various bureaucracies. Interns assigned to this office have an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the internal workings of government, and how it affects the daily lives of average Kentuckians. Essentially, these interns act as liaisons between lawmakers and the public and will deal with a variety of people daily. Many of these people will be facing personal situations and/or will have strong opinions on certain issues. A constituent services intern must have good analytical and communication skills.

Public Information Office

Interns interested in journalism, public relations, or communications may be placed with LRC's Public Information Office during the session. This placement is different from the others in that it is less research oriented and more focused on disseminating information. The Public Information Office staff guide interns in writing press releases, speeches, newspaper columns, and photo cutlines. This Office also has a photography section and provides radio and video services to legislators. Interns assigned to the Public Information Office will have the rare opportunity of working on the Senate and House floors during proceedings, as well as attending and helping to arrange press conferences held by legislators. This placement requires well-developed writing and communication skills. Journalism and communications majors are usually considered best qualified for this placement. Generally, no more than two interns will be placed with Public Information.

Academic Work

Qualified instructors at LRC organize and oversee two courses for which academic credit is acknowledged. These courses consist of two weekly seminars that Generally feature guest speakers with special expertise in government, public administration or legislative matters. These seminars, which are scheduled around the availability of the speakers, give the student interns an opportunity to interact with executives and policy-makers from all three branches of government. Interns also talk with lobbyists, the media and other entities involved in the process. The first academic course, "The Kentucky Legislative Process," deals with political dimensions of the General Assembly and the comprehensive process of establishing public policy. The second course, "Challenges of State Government," examines state government as a whole, including issues, policy analysis, and the role of various agencies and how they work together. The LRC recommends three hours of academic credit for each of the two seminars, and nine hours of academic credit for the work/study part of the program. Thus, a student's academic institution may allow a total of 15 hours credit for the entire program.

Application & Selection

The 2014 program will run from January through April 2014. It will include a two-day orientation in November, prior to the convening of the 2014 General Assembly. Interns must register and pay the normal tuition and fees required of a full-time student to their respective academic institution. Eligible students must be at least a junior by January 2014, have an overall grade point average of 2.8 or better on a four-point scale, and have been active in campus activities. Interested students should complete an application and return it to either their campus contact or directly to the LRC if the campus contact prefers. All applications must be received by LRC before May 6, 2013. Several students will be chosen as finalists and asked to come to Frankfort during the following few weeks for an interview with a panel of LRC staff. Up to 20 students may be selected for the program and notified prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

Campus Contacts

Alice Lloyd College	Ms. Janet Johnson
Asbury University	Mr. Jason Clayton
Bellarmine University	Ms. Ann Zeman
Berea College	Dr. John Heyrman
Brescia University	Dr. Jennifer Morrision
Campbellsville University	Dr. Max Wise
Centre College	Ms. Deb Jones
Eastern Kentucky University	Dr. Joe Gershtenson
Georgetown College	Dr. Melissa Scherier
*KCTCS	Mr. Jordan Smith
Kentucky State University	Dr. Beverly Downing
Kentucky Wesleyan College	Dr. Bill Conroy
Lindsey Wilson College	Dr. Stefan Brooks
Midway College	Dean Karen Petko
Morehead State University	Dr. Michael Hail
Murray State University	Dr. Ann Beck
Northern Kentucky University	Prof. Caroline Braden
Pikeville College	Dr. Nancy J. Cade
Spalding University	
Thomas More College	Dr. John T. Spence
Transylvania University	Ms. Susan Rayer
Union College	Dr. Robert Armour
University of Kentucky	Dr. Dan Morey
University of Louisville	Dr. Jason Gainous
University of the Cumberlands	Dr. Bruce Hicks
Western Kentucky University	Dr. Scott Lasley

*Kentucky Community & Technical College System

Legislative Research Commission

The Kentucky Legislative Research Commission is a 16-member committee, comprised of the majority and minority leadership of the Kentucky Senate and House of Representatives. Under Chapter 7 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the Commission is the administrative arm of the Kentucky General Assembly. Its director serves as chief administrative officer of the Legislative Branch. For questions, contact: Sheila Mason, LRC Intern Coordinator, at 502 564-8100 ext. 786, or at sheila.mason@lrc.ky.gov.